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Letter dated 6 August 1998 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to the enclosed document which reflects the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning the Agreement signed on 6 July 1998 by the President of the Russian Federation and the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan regarding the legal status of the Caspian Sea (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 39, 97 and 98.

(*Signed*) Hadi **Nejad Hosseinian**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Statement of the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Agreement signed on 6 July 1998 by the President of the Russian Federation and the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan regarding the legal status of the Caspian Sea

The Islamic Republic of Iran, while reaffirming its position on the legal status of the Caspian Sea as contained in General Assembly document A/52/913 dated 21 May 1998, declares that the Agreement signed on 6 July 1998 by the President of the Russian Federation and the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan regarding the legal status of the Caspian Sea is in contravention of the existing legal instruments governing the legal status of the Caspian Sea, and does not recognize the said Agreement as valid. Clearly, as long as the legal regime of the Caspian Sea is not complemented with the unanimous agreement of all coastal States, any decision taken in this regard is unacceptable and bears no legal merit.